

The two faithfull Friends.

The pleasant History of *Alexander* and *Lodwicke*, who were so like one another, that none could know them asunder : wherein is declared how *Lodwicke* married the Princesse of *Hungaria* in *Alexanders* name, and how each night he layd a naked sword betwene him and the *Princesse*, because he would not wrong his friend.

To the tune of *Flying Fame.*



The Emperoz of Germany,
a turney did proclame :
Where many Princes of renowne,
resorted to the same, (came
Amongst the rest Prince Lodowike
and Guido Prince of Spaine ;
Prince Alexander likewi e came
great honours to obtaine.

The Emperors promise was to gine
to him that won the day,
His only daughter as his bride :
the Story thus doth say ;
The Champions entered the field,
with carriage stout and bold :
Lodwicke of France, most manfully
wore Armour shind like gold.

Price Alexander was the next
that entred in the field,
And like a champion stout and bold ;
he did aduance his shield :
The haughty Spaniard with the rest
his valour there did show,
But Alexander by his strength,
gave him the ouerthow.

The valiant Prince of Hungary
brave Alex n'er ha,
From all the champions in the field
he won the victory :
Thus he by valour did obtaine
the *Princesse* from them all,
But yet in Hungary she liyd
that had his heart with all.

The Emperoz his promise kept,
and to the Conqueror gave :
His only daughter for his wife
whom Lodwicke most did crave ;
For loue had so inflam'd his thoughts
and set his heart on fire :
That for to gaine the *Princesse* loue
it was his chiese desire.

This Alexander was so like
to Lodwicke Prince of France,
That he so lately had of thronne
by faire and fortunes chance :
None could distinguish them aright
or know one from the other,
In shape stature and countenance ;
as if they had bin brothers.

Twhich bread such lone betwix them
as could not be diuort, (both
by fortunes frowne, and sickle chance
alunder them in sorte :
Price Alexander gave his friend
the Emperors daughter first,
Twhich he before had won in field :
by manly Chivalry.

The envious Spaniard being vext
and toruried in his mind,
He and the devill devised how
to troule the leuers kind :
He to the Emperoz accus'd
the *Princesse* of late Lust,
And broug't with word sor to maintain:
the accusations just.

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The lecond part.

Prince Lodwick being thus accus'd,
By Guydo Prince of Spaine,
His friend Prince Alexander then
this combat did mainteine:
And sent his friend Prince Lodwick
to Hungary with spæd, (straight)
There in his roome soz to possesse
the high Imperiall weed.

Friend Lodwick, Alexander sayd,
Goe thou to Hungary;
Against the Spaniard Ile maintaine
thy cause most manfully:
The King I understand is dead,
Goe then and in my place,
Prestell the Crowne and dignity,
and all the Royall grace.

That they will there beslow on thee,
let it not be denyd;
His daughter likewise in my name
make her thy wedded bride:
But by our friendhius I intreat,
This handfeste at thy hands:
That thou by ne meanes violalte
true constancies chass bands.

Although thou wedde her as thy wife,
yet knowe'st in my name,
Let her remaine a virgin pure
I doe request the same:
Because my heart she has in hold,
and loue her as my life;
Alway be gone thou knowst my mind
Leue me to end this strife.

Prince Lodwike now is on his way,
and Alexander hee,
By fortunes ayd the Spaniard slew,
and set the Princes free:
Lodwike in Alexanders name
recei'd in Hungary,
The Crowne likewise in the Churche
his wife receiued he.

But every night betweene them twain
he naked sworo he'd lay,
Such constaunce friendship at that time
his heart and thoughts did sway:
Prince Alexander came him selfe
then Lodwike tooke his leue,
Of Alexander his deare friend
which did hym not deceiue.

The Quene in heart was vexed soze
that she so long shuld ly,
With him that was her husband deare
and no' Loues passimes trye:
Unto a Lord he made her mone,
and they both did agree:
To be reueng'd vpon the King
and poisened he shoulde be.

To the same tune.

The poysen tooke not full effect
but brake forth on his face,
That he a leper did appear
and then in great disgrace:
They kickt & spurndhim from the court,
thus in most shamefull manner,
He was compel'd to beg for food
that lately liu'd in honoz.

To Lodwicks Court he did repaire
thus like a lper pooze;
And soz relieve he did intreate
at his friend Lodwicks doore:
A King he sent vnto his friend,
who well the same did know,
And came in loue to greet his friend
willing to ease his woe.

Quoth Alexander unto him,
kind friend there is no way
To easre my paine vntesse that thou
thy louing babes doe say:
What is but I will doe for thie,
quoth Lodwike by and by,
To easre my scens of this great paine,
my pretty babes shall dye.

For which hee to the cradle goes,
where they were falt alaize,
And with a knife he lets them blood
his promise soz to kepe: (sores
And with their bloods he walst the
from Alexanders face,
Thus he like to a loyall friend
the path of Loue did trace.

Thus Alexander being clear'd,
of all his torturing paine,
Lodwike vnto his Queen made known
how he his babes had slaine
This newes did grieve her at the heart,
but straight she runs to see:
Whether that it was so or no
it prou'd the contrary.

For both the babes she found aliae,
as God would haue it so,
Which did reniue her drooping heart,
now ioyes excedes all woe:
King Alexander being well
to Hungary he goes;
And Lodwike his beloued friend
to ouerthow his foes.

The victory they soone obtain'd,
and took the Lord and Quene,
And doom'd them to such cruell deaths
as yet had not beeene seene:
King Alexander againe was Crown'd,
by helpe of his good friend,
Their grieves to ioyes converted were,
their pleasures did trascend.